

Message Text

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53

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /130 W

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R 201520Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8950

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 4263

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, SF, US

SUBJ: PACE OF BANNINGS INTENSIFIES

REF: PRETORIA A-223, PRETORIA 3774

1. COLORED REPORTER FOR JOHANNESBURG STAR, DONALD MATTERA, 37, SERVED WITH FIVE-YEAR BANNING ORDER NOVEMBER 20. MATTERA RESIGNED FROM HIS POSITION AS PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER OF COLORED LABOR PARTY IN JULY 1973 OVER BLACK CONSCIOUSNESS ISSUE TO JOIN BLACK PEOPLE'S CONVENTION (BPC). MATTERA ALSO ORGANIZER OF UNION OF BLACK JOURNALISTS AND LEADING POET WHO IS ACTIVE IN YOUTH AFFAIRS. EMBASSY EVALUATION OF MATTERA REFLECTED BY HIS NOMINATION AS ALTERNATE FOR FY 74 LEADER GRANT.

2. ACCORDING TO JOHANNESBURG STAR, MATTERA RESTRICTED FROM ATTENDING ANY GATHERING, IN PARTICULAR ANY SOCIAL OR POLITICAL GATHERING, AND FROM ADDRESSING ANY MEETING OF PUPILS OR STUDENTS. ON OCTOBER 30 MATTERA ACQUITTED ON CHARGE OF OBSTRUCTING POLICE ON JULY 17 WHILE ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN STORY ON CHILDREN ARRESTED FOR LITTERING AND PASS OFFENSES.

3. SINCE EMBASSY REPORTED BANNING OF 53 PEOPLE THIS YEAR
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(REFAIR), SEVEN OTHER BLACKS KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN BANNED:

WELILE NHALPO, 25, ACTIVE IN SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION (SASO) AND FIELD WORKER FOR BLACK WORKERS PROJECT (BWP) BANNED OCTOBER 30; C. SEWPERSADH, PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN OF NATAL INDIAN CONGRESS BANNED OCTOBER 29; MALUSI MPUMLWANA, 22, BLACK COMMUNITIES PROGRAM (BCP) FIELD WORKER BANNED OCTOBER 30; REV. RUBIN PHILLIPS (INDIAN), 25, FORMER SASO VICE PRESIDENT AND ANGLICAN PRIEST BANNED LATE OCTOBER; LINDELO MABANDLA, TEACHER AND SON OF TRANSKEI MINROADS AND WORKS, BANNED EARLY NOVEMBER; AND FRANK FEZILE NHLAPO AND GIDEON MAKATAMENE MDHLETSHE, FOR WHOM PARTICULARS ARE UNAVAILABLE.

4. THUS A TOTAL OF 61 PEOPLE, ALL BUT NINE OF WHOM ARE BLACK, ARE KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN BANNED THIS YEAR. IN CONTRAST, EMBASSY RECORDS SHOW TOTAL 14 BANNINGS DURING 1972. HARDEST HIT ARE YOUNG URBAN ADVOCATES OF BLACK CONSCIOUSNESS ORGANIZATIONS, SASO, BCP, BPC AND BWP, AMONG THOSE BANNED. AS IN SIMILAR MOVEMENTS IN U.S., PROPONENTS OF BLACK CONSCIOUSNESS IN SOUTH AFRICA ADVOCATE NECESSITY AND DESIRABILITY OF BLACK SELF-RELIANCE TO BRING ABOUT POLITICAL AND SOCIAL CHANGE. SPECTRUM OF OPINION ON TACTICS AND IDEOLOGY (PRIVATELY HELD IF NOT PUBLICLY EXPRESSED) REPRESENTED BY THOSE BANNED IS PROBABLY FAIRLY BROAD. BANNING ORDERS VARY FROM HOUSE ARREST TO RESTRICTIONS ON ATTENDING ANY SOCIAL, PUBLIC OR POLITICAL GATHERINGS. THOSE BANNED MAY NOT BE QUOTED AND ALL PUBLICATIONS CONTAINING THEIR WORK OR STATEMENTS MUST BE CENSORED.

5. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS REPORTED INCREASED LEVEL OF SAG SUPPRESSION OF OUTSPOKEN OPPOSITION, ESPECIALLY BLACK OPPOSITION, TO APARTHEID. WE VIEW THIS DEVELOPMENT WITH INCREASING CONCERN AND FIND IT HARD TO AVOID CONCLUSION THE SAG HAS EMBARKED ON SYSTEMATIC EFFORT TO EMASCULATE AFRICAN POLITICAL ACTIVITY OUTSIDE OF HOMELANDS, THUS LEAVING URBAN LEADERS VOICELESS AND URBAN SOURCES OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT IMPOTENT.

6. THIS UNFORTUNATE SAG EFFORT SHOULD NOT BE OBSCURED BY NEWS MEDIA REPORTS OF MORE FLEXIBLE ATTITUDE TOWARD RACE RELATIONS BY WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS AND OF EASING OF SOME RESTRICTIVE PRACTICES. CASE IN POINT IS CURRENT SPATE OF PUBLICITY RE "BREAKTHROUGH" IN SPORTS DUE PRESENCE IN SA OF

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BLACK AMERICANS BOXER BOB FOSTER AND TENNIS STAR ARTHUR ASHE.

7. REMOVAL OF PASSPORT OF COLORED LABOR PARTY LEADER SONNY LEON (CAPE TOWN 565) INDICATES THAT EVEN LEADERS IN POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS OF APARTHEID ARE NOT SAFE FROM GOVERNMENT REPRESSIVE ACTION. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED (REFTEL), EFFECT OF ACTIONS ON BLACK OPPONENTS MAY WELL BE INCREASED MILITANCY AND MOVEMENT OF THEIR ORGANIZATIONS UNDERGROUND. IN THIS

PROCESS EMBASSY EFFORTS BOTH TO ENCOURAGE PEACEFUL CHANGE AND TO MONITOR AND REPORT ON PROCESS OF CHANGE MAY BE SEVERELY HAMPERED.

8. IN VIEW OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS, DEPARTMENT UNDOUBTEDLY SHARES OUR INCREASING CONCERNS ABOUT COURSE OF SAG REPRESSIVE ACTIONS. EMBASSY THEREFORE RECOMMENDS DEPARTMENT CONSIDER CALLING SOUTH AFRICAN AMBASSADOR TO DEPARTMENT TO EXPRESS OUR CONCERN OVER SAG'S INCREASING RESORT TO REPRESSIVE MEASURES AGAINST ARTICULATE BLACK OPINION MAKERS AND INFORM HIM OF NEGATIVE IMPLICATIONS OF SUCH ACTION ON OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. BELIEVE SUCH ACTION WOULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE THAN LOCAL APPROACH, ALTHOUGH LATTER COULD OF COURSE ALSO BE UNDERTAKEN IF DEPARTMENT DESIRES.
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